

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9902

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAIR, IN

SUBJ: RUPEES: AIR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

1. IN JUNE EMBASSY PASSED ON INVITATION BY DHEW/RSA TO GOI TO FINANCE FOUR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS TO ATTEND AT U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPENSE THE SEVENTH WORLD CONGRESS ON DEAFNESS TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON JULY 31 TO AUGUST 8. GOI REPLY RECEIVED TODAY APPROVES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS "SO LONG AS THEY TRAVEL IN INDIAN CARRIERS WHEREEVER THE INDIAN CARRIERS OPERATE".

2. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MEA AND MOF TODAY EMBOFFS MADE IT CLEAR SAT IT WAS USG POLICY THAT MAXIMUM POSSIBLE USE BE MADE OF U.S. CARRIERS. GOI OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND THIS BUT IN OUR JUDGEMENT WOULD PREFER NOT TO SEE GRANTS ACCEPTED RATHER THAN UTILIZE U.S. CARRIERS WITH ATTENDANT FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOSS. IT IS LIKELY THAT GOI WOULD ACCEPT SOME SORT OF AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE TRAVEL WAS SPLIT BETWEEN U.S. AND INDIAN CARRIERS. EMBASSY HAS NOT DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE GOI.

3. EMBASSY FULLY AWARE OF AND ENDORSES DESIRABILITY OF MAKING MAXIMUM POSSIBLE USE OF U.S. CARRIERS. WE WISH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRESS HOWEVER, THE WORD "POSSIBLE". IN THIS CASE IF WE INSIST ON FULL USE OF U.S. CARRIERS THERE WILL BE NO TRAVEL

AND THEREFORE NO REVENUE FOR U.S. CARRIERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE FAIRLY CONFIDENT WE COULD NEGOTIATIVE AN AGREEMENT WHEREBY IEMS. CARRIERS WOULD OBTAIN AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF AIR FARE REVENUE. FROM OUR CONVERSATION WITH GOI OFFICIALS IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THIS "FLY INDIAN" POLICY WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL FUTURE EXCHANGES WHERE INDIANS ARE TRAVELING. A RIGID "FLY AMERICAN" POLICY IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO TERMINATION OF ALL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS INVOLVING INDIAN CITIZENS JUST WHEN SUCH PROGRAMS ARE COMING OUT OF THEIR LONG "FREEZE". U.S. CITIZENS WOULD CONTINUE SOLELY TO FLY AMERICAN WHETHER OR NOT WE NEGOTIATE A COMPROMISE ON INDIANS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AND, IF POSSIBLE, AUTHORITY TO TRY TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE MAJORITY PART IN ALL TRAVEL BY INDIANS IS UNDERTAKEN ON U.S. CARRIERS. WHILE THIS MAY NOT HAVE LEGAL RELEVANCE, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT PAN AMERICAN WOULD PREFER A SHARED TRAVEL ARRANGEMENT TO NO TRAVEL AT ALL AND THE PURPOSE OF RECENT LEGISLATION WAS TO ASSIST U.S. AIR CARRIERS.
SAXBE

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